

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for a data acquisition device to transfer a new data object to a user storage device, the method comprising:
 - detecting a new data object;
 - determining an availability of one or more user storage devices to store the new data object in response to the detecting;
 - establishing a communications session with at least one available user storage device; and
 - sending the new data object to the at least one available user storage device for storage therein.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising first determining if a type of the new data object is configured for automatic transfer to an available user storage device; and
 - determining the availability of the one or more user storage devices only if the type of the new data object is configured for automatic transfer.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the new data object comprises a media file selected from the group consisting of a sound file, a voice file, an image file, and a video file.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein determining the availability of the one or more devices comprises communicating with an online connection service to obtain a list of available user storage devices associated with the data acquisition device.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising receiving a prioritized list of available user storage devices associated with the data acquisition device from the online connection service.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising receiving information on the communications protocols supported by each available user storage device on the prioritized list.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the sending of the new data object is in accordance with the communications protocol supported by the at least one available user storage device.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a network address for each available user storage device on the prioritized list.

9. The method of claim 4, wherein communicating with the online connection service comprises sending authentication information to authenticate the data acquisition device to the online connection service.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising requesting permission to store the new data object at the at least one available user storage device before sending the object to the at least one available user storage device.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the requesting permission is performed implicitly by sending authentication information to the at least one available user storage device and receiving an authentication success message from the at least one available user storage device.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein establishing the communication session with the at least one available user storage device comprises establishing a peer-to-peer link with the at least one available user storage device.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein establishing the communication session with the at least one available user storage device comprises establishing a link with the at least one available user storage device through an intermediate proxy server.

14. A computer readable medium, having stored thereon a sequence of instructions which when executed by a data acquisition device, causes the data acquisition device to perform a method to transfer a new data object to a user storage device, the method comprising:

detecting a new data object;
determining an availability of one or more user storage devices to store the new data object in response to the detecting;
establishing a communications session with at least one available user storage device; and
sending the new data object to the at least one available user storage device for storage therein.

15. The computer readable medium of claim 14, further comprising first determining if a type of the new data object is configured for automatic transfer to an available user storage device; and

determining the availability of the one or more user storage devices only if the type of the new data object is configured for automatic transfer.

16. The computer readable medium of claim 14, wherein the new data object comprises a media file selected from the group consisting of a sound file, a voice file, an image file, and a video file.

17. The computer readable medium of claim 14, wherein determining the availability of the one or more devices comprises communicating with an online connection service to obtain a list of available user storage devices associated with the data acquisition device.

18. A data acquisition device, comprising:
a processor; and
a memory coupled to the processor, the memory storing instructions which when executed by the processor, cause the data acquisition device to perform a method for transferring a new data object to a user storage device, the method comprising:

detecting a new data object;
determining an availability of one or more user storage devices to store the new data object in response to the detecting;
establishing a communications session with at least one available user storage device; and
sending the new data object to the at least one available user storage device for storage therein

19. The data acquisition device of claim 18, wherein the method further comprises first determining if a type of the new data object is configured for automatic transfer to an available user storage device; and

determining the availability of the one or more user storage devices only if the type of the new data object is configured for automatic transfer.

20. The data acquisition device of claim 18, wherein the new data object comprises a media file selected from the group consisting of a sound file, a voice file, an image file, and a video file.